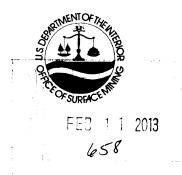


## United States Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement Casper Field Office PO Box 11018 150 East B Street, RM 1018 Casper, WY 82602

February 5, 2013



Mr. James Deutsch, Director Reclamation & AML Divisions North Dakota Public Service Commission 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept 408 Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Mr. Deutsch:

The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) has reviewed the AML Divisions request for concurrence for the 2013 Sinkhole Maintenance Project, located at several sights throughout North Dakota

This project is a continuation of the 2011 Sinkhole Maintenance Project. Since the scope of work and project location remain unchanged, the authorization to proceed and finding of no significant impact issued for the 2011 Sinkhole Maintenance Project remain valid. We have determined that the documentation previously supplied for 2011 Sinkhole Maintenance Project adequately discusses the environmental issues and impacts associated with the project. Based on the analysis of these documents, I have determined that reclamation of this site would not have significant effects on the quality of the human environment, and therefore conclude that no environmental impact statement (EIS) is necessary.

If the scope of work or project location changes for any reason, please contact this office as further evaluation and authorization may be required. The State of North Dakota Public Service Commission, Abandoned Mine Lands Division should ensure that all applicable laws, clearances, permits, or requirements are met prior to expending funds.

Accordingly, pursuant to section 5-11-20D.3 of the Federal Assistance manual, this office concurs that you are authorized to proceed with this project.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Fleischman, Director

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Casper Field Office

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Authorization to Proceed received from OSM
US Dept of Interior Office of Surface Mining
Jeff Fleischman